



**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
**UNITED STATES ARMY GARRISON STUTTGART**  
**UNIT 30401**  
**APO AE 09107-0401**

IMSG-ZA

09 MAR 2012

**MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION**

**SUBJECT: United States Army Garrison (USAG) Stuttgart Proclamation for Child Abuse Prevention Month in April 2012**

1. Reference. AR 608-18, The Army Family Advocacy Program, 30 Oct 07.
2. Purpose. To proclaim April 2012 as Army Child Abuse Prevention Month.
3. Scope. This proclamation applies to all Service Members, Department of Defense civilians, retirees, contractors, and their Family Members residing in the USAG-Stuttgart military community.
4. Overview.
  - a. The Army Family Advocacy Program (FAP) preventive education initiatives provide Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, and Family Members information about child abuse and its harmful effects on Army Families and the Army mission. FAP is an essential resource at USAG Stuttgart engaging in long standing prevention efforts positively affecting the Army and civilian community.
  - b. The theme for Army Child Abuse Prevention Month is **"It's no secret...everyone can help. Keep Army Children Safe and Healthy."** As commander of this installation, it is my goal to ensure that happens. April is also designated as the month of the Military Child and what better way to honor children in military Families than to keep them safe and provide for their health and well being.
  - c. In 2012, after more than 10 years with increased OPTEMPO and multiple deployments, child abuse is not the greatest problem facing the Army and its Families. However, the Army rates, while lower than in the civilian community, did go up this year (2010) after two years (2008 and 2009) of lower rates.
  - d. If, in the Army, the numbers are lower, we are still dedicated to prevention. The truth of child abuse remains the same. It happens. It has a profound effect on the child victims. It takes place in a family context where other problems exist that degrade family functioning. And the statistics do not tell us the whole story. Some child abuse and neglect remains unseen and

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unreported – with consequences that grow and spread, affecting the community, and in our case, the Army mission.

e. Child abuse is no secret. We still need to build and maintain awareness. When homes and communities take care of their children, the whole community becomes a healthier place.

f. FAP's successful prevention campaign asks that everyone:

- (1) **"Recognize"** signs of distress that can lead to abuse and take action,
- (2) **"Rethink"** wellness and ways to stay healthy,
- (3) **"Reach Out"** for professional help, and
- (4) **"Report"** child abuse and neglect.

g. Everyone needs to know the safety and health of Army children rests in all of our hands.

5. Point of contact is the Family Advocacy Program Manager, DSN 431-3352.

  
CARL D. BIRD III  
COL, LG  
Commanding